

REVOLUTION

socialist youth movement

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30p or donation



UK flavour



US flavour

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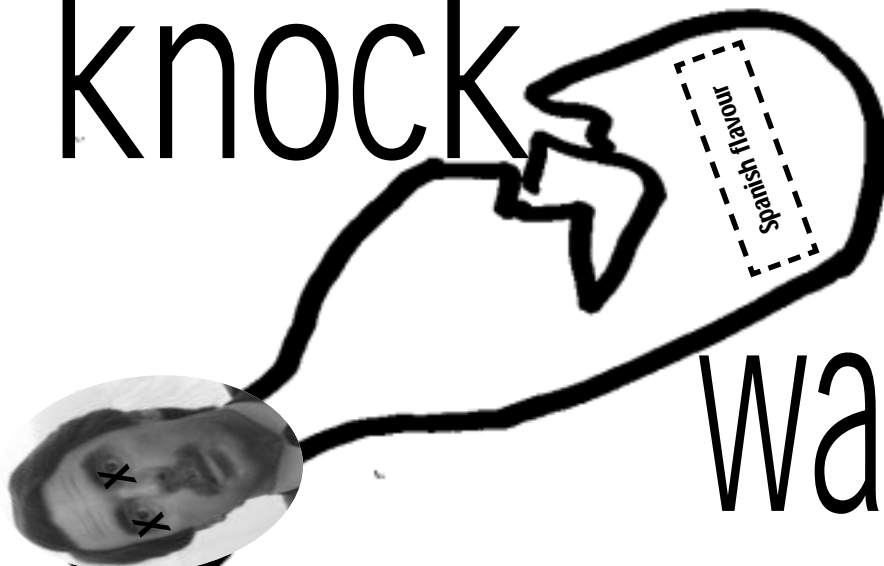
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to
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Italian flavour

knock



down the
warmongers



h a i t i - revolution or reaction?

To go by media reports you might be forgiven for thinking that the former Haitian President Aristide was the Caribbean equivalent of Saddam Hussein, and that the rebels who deposed him were popular freedom fighters. You certainly wouldn't realise that he was the democratically elected leader of a country that suffered under four decades of the pro-US dictatorship of father Francois 'Papa Doc' Duvalier and son 'Baby Doc'.

In fact, the rebels comprised at most 300 heavily armed fighters, led by former officers of the disbanded army. Their success was a result of the country's dire economic crisis and the effective support of French and US imperialism.

Aristide was a priest who came to power in 1990 with the support of Haiti's poor and oppressed after the overthrow of Baby Doc, winning 67% of the vote. Less than a year later, a military coup forced him out of the country and killed about 1,000 people in the ensuing terror. The US intervened to restore him in 1994 only after economic sanctions and growing repression created massive waves of refugees heading for Florida.

This time, the US ensured that Aristide was under strict control, fulfilling the demands of the IMF and World Bank, honouring the debts built up by the dictatorship, and promising to step down after two years in office.

In May 2000 Aristide's party, made up of

a number of semi-mass organisations, won a large majority, but the opposition disputed the election result. Fearing that he would adopt policies that threatened their interests, the US and EU voiced their concerns at election "irregularities". Aristide's response was to try to win back the favour of international donors and the IMF, introducing a harsh austerity programme that ended fuel subsidies and cut spending on education and public services.

Disaffected students joined the opposition in street protests, while radio stations financed by Haitian exiles called for armed actions against the 'tyrant'. Aristide's supporters attacked student demonstrators, denouncing them as supporters of the old dictatorship, killing several and forcing others into hiding.

In this growing crisis, the remnants of the old dictatorship launched their military attacks in the north of the country. The police force Aristide set up to replace the army he disbanded in 1995 was no match for the well-financed rebels who have targeted it, attacking police buildings and murdering everyone inside. Aristide's supporters either fled or were beaten or killed, and felt strong enough take over the streets only in the capital city.

This time, the imperialists had no intention of bailing him out, and put forward a "peace plan" allowing him stay on if he appointed a prime minister acceptable to the opposition. The opposition refused

this compromise, thinking they were strong enough to insist on Aristide's removal. When popular militias took to the streets of the Port au Prince to defend the government, the imperialists took sides with the rebels, calling on Aristide to step down to avoid an "uncontrollable spiral of violence". The French offered to lead an armed "peacekeeping force" while the US sent in the marines.

Haiti, just like Iraq, shows once again the imperialists' hypocritical attitude to democracy. Elections are acceptable as long as the right candidate is elected. "Unsafe" elected candidates - a Chavez or an Aristide - must be removed at the first favourable opportunity.

Only when the masses of Haiti take power into their own hands, and exercise it through their own direct democracy - through workers' and peasants' councils - will they be able to finally settle accounts with imperialist oppression and their own exploiters.

by marcus in london



connexions

Ever heard of Connexions? If you are currently studying for A-levels then you probably have. If not yet, you probably will soon. Connexions is a government initiative aimed at providing young people with a joined-up careers, education, health and welfare service in a kind of "one-stop shop". Its stated aim is to oversee the transition of young people from education to the world of further education, training and employment. A young person who signs up for (or is referred to) the scheme is allotted a "personal advisor", who acts as a link between all the agencies involved, and helps the young person in overcoming "barriers to learning". Also, colleges and schools are being encouraged to adopt the Connexions card scheme by which students are given a card with which they register at college/school. Points are collected for attendance - which can be exchanged for specific goods on the Connexions website, or used for discounts in certain shops. "What's wrong with this?" many people may ask, "integration of these services will reduce bureaucracy and make life easier for young people. Plus we get discounts and freebies with our snazzy swipe cards".

Here are a few facts about the Connexions scheme, just in case you think it's a good idea:

- Your Connexions PA (personal advisor) can share information with social services, youth offending teams, schools, local education authorities (LEA's), the police and probation officers.
- There is no national policy concerning the sharing of information; local Connexions partnerships formulate their own policy.
- There is no national policy specifying the length of time for which Connexions may hold this information.
- PA's, who collect your data, have no formal training in the

data protection act.

- The Connexions card scheme involves the sharing of information commercially. Unless you request otherwise, data may be shared with the private sector, presumably for the purpose of targeted advertising.
- Colleges and schools are asked to, quote, "Incentivise their students and get paid". They are paid one pound for every student who signs up for a card.
- The Learning and skills council intend to build a database of "Individualised Learner Records". This will be managed by the University for Industry, a consortium of IT companies that runs Learn Direct.
- Careers advice offered through the Connexions service is contracted out to some very dodgy companies. Vosper Thorneycroft, one of the UK's largest arms manufacturers, provides careers advice under a variety of names such as "Future's Careers" and "Careers Enterprise". Young Enterprise is also heavily involved in the running of local Connexions partnerships. Their directors also happen to represent companies such as HSBC, Nestle, BAE Systems and Cadbury Schweppes.

The Connexions scheme is obviously nothing more than a continuation of Tony's privatisation binge. Not only does it take pressure off the government to sort out our education system, it benefits the capitalist system by allowing corporations to have an influence over the way that we are educated. It allows them to target advertising, to promote their goods and services, and to shape the nations youth into the next generation of workers and consumers. Watch this space...

by rael in colchester

1 down 3 to go Aznar's out!

by simon in leeds

Thursday 11th of March in Madrid marked the beginning of three days of national mourning to mark the deaths of 200 people killed in co-ordinated bomb attacks on rush hour commuter traffic at Madrid's train stations.

11th March is Spain's 11th September. And Jose-Maria Aznar tried to make as much political capital out of it as George W Bush made out of 9/11.

The capitalist press has spent the days printing articles and interviewing "terrorism" experts about who could have done this. Their - and Aznar's - aim is not to secure the safety of Spanish people, but rather to ensure that their enemies pay for this outrage, guilty or not. They had two main suspects: ETA, the Basque separatist organisation that has carried out assassinations and bombings in Spain before, and Al-Qa'eda.

Blame soon fell on the former; ETA members were caught driving a van to Madrid last week with 500 pounds of explosives in it. Aznar's right wing government has waged a bitter and cruel campaign against all those fighting for the right to self-determination. Over 700 Basque nationalists currently lie in Spain's jails, many illegally dispersed hundreds of kilometres from their homes, others subject to torture treatment. Aznar - and the European Union - has recently declared not just ETA, but Basque parties and social organisations illegal under anti-terrorist legislation. If you support the right of the Basque people to self-determination - then you must be a terrorist.

The political leader of the Basque party Batasuna (recently declared illegal by the Spanish state) denied the attacks had been carried out by Basque separatists. Whoever carried it out, the Spanish state was clear who it wanted to blame. Only a few hours after the bombings, the cabinet met in an emergency session, and the minister of the interior, Angel Acebes, declared that "ETA had been looking for a massacre in Spain. Unfortunately, today it achieved its goal."

Even when this letter from Al Qa'eda claiming responsibility for the blasts appeared, Aznar and his cronies still attempted to cover up the fact and blame ETA. In the run-up to the Spanish elections, Aznar's right wing party - Partido Popular - lauded its ability to be 'tough on terrorism.' Many observers thought that the bombings and Aznar's attacks on ETA would mean a whitewash for the PP at the electoral polls that weekend. But, the underestimated the courage of the Spanish workers and youth who refused to believe the lies and voted in the Spanish Social Democrats. Aznar gambled the fate of his government on lies about ETA - this has blown up in his face. The resentment and bitterness of the Spanish people for being drawn into the war on Iraq - when 90% of the population was against it - has been borne out at the polls: Aznar has been kicked out. This is a massive victory for the global anti war movement. Aznar was one of the "gang of 4" who were not scared to trample on opinion of the worlds masses and embark on an imperialist adventure in Iraq.

Now the incoming Social Democrat government has said they will withdraw the 1700 Spanish troops in Iraq unless the UN takes the mission over by June. Spanish workers and youth must mobilise and fight for an end to the occupation and against this imperialist manoeuvring by the incoming government. Moreover, the Social Democrats are a neo liberal party that has a history of betrayal of the working class. We call on the

protests outside Aznar's office



workers and youth of Spain to build on their mass anti capitalist and anti war movements and channel this resistance into a fight against the attacks on social welfare that will no doubt continue under the new government. Only radical and mass action by the working class (that they Spanish workers have shown they are capable of in the run up the elections) can bring progressive change.

The Aftermath of Terrorism

ETA, like many militant organisations, has had to scale down their operations since 11th September because of international outrage and the increased anti-terrorist legislation and surveillance of Western governments. Aznar is one of Bush's (and Tony Blair's) most prominent supporters, a right winger who has overseen systematic persecution of the Basques since he came to office. Sections of the Basque population have long fought for self-determination; many people desire their own country in the north of Spain. But in the same way that the Kurds are denied the same rights in Turkey, Iraq and Syria, the Basques are repressed heavily in Spain.

Unfortunately, in the aftermath of the fall of the twin towers, bombings and individual terrorist attacks by groups seeking self-determination are cast in the new light of the "war on terror". This gives the Spanish state - guilty of torture and of the denial of the rights to free expression and association - supposed legitimacy to carry out a war on civil liberties.

REVOLUTION condemns the reactionary bombings in Madrid on 11th March - unreservedly. Whoever carried them out clearly has no regard for the working class people who were overwhelmingly the victims of the slaughter; the perpetrators obviously see the Spanish working class as part of the problem, not part of the solution. In carrying out this act, therefore, they have undermined the very causes - be that removing imperialist armies from the Middle East or winning self-determination for the Basque people - they claim to represent.

However, REVOLUTION stands firmly against any attempt - by Bush, Berlusconi or Blair - to use this tragedy to strengthen their own hand.

love and life

love and life's lost
diluted soul with no control
and no way to know, with no where to go
what they call her they call her a whore
with a sold soul, numb though its not cold
no time to find a sign, she pays her way committing crime
jaded, hatred, she hates the day
fears the night, nothing is alright
a light, a dream, destroyed by her plight
the void is growing with no end in sight
nothing left to do but sit and cry
hope to die, you wonder why
instead of dying she'll just get high
but that's the chain, that's the thing, that's the reason that
she has nothing
that is the reason she cannot dream

by matt in canada

america's war on the poor

"America is a nation with a mission. Our aim is democratic peace - a peace founded upon the duty and rights of every man and woman... This great republic will lead the cause of freedom... by bringing hope to the oppressed and delivering justice to the violent."

As George W. Bush waded through this torrent of hypocrisy and lies (a sanctimonious sermon that made up his State of the Nation address recently), troops and corporations were actively pursuing those precious values of freedom and equality - by sponsoring and carrying out mass murder, torture, bombings, human rights abuses and poverty-inflicting economic sanctions.

However, given that the support of murderous dictatorships and death squads was proving somewhat unpopular and resulting in bad press, the establishment realised that a new strategy was needed to be able to continue its oppression and brutal repression of the masses in the 'undeveloped' world.

So they created a world of danger around every corner, brutal dictators at a drop of a hat and weapons of mass destruction... well EVERYWHERE - and in this way manufacturing fear and consent to terrorise others. And thus was born the 'War on Terror' - carte blanche for the establishment of a world wide military and police state where rights can be ignored and abused; martial law can be imposed at will; and most of all opposition can be disposed without merciless aplomb.

Worse - this is a 'war' that has no effective or definite conclusion since the establishment makes it up as it goes along. We can expect a marked increase in repression not only against extremist Islamist groups or guerrilla armies but also against the Anti-Capitalist movement itself - all in the name of protecting democracy, that is.

Under this guise of terrorist prevention, the western powers can do as they please. In Latin America for example decades of economic and military interference paved the way for imperialist exploitation and its thirst for colonial expansion. This then led to the neo-liberal globalisation offensive that saw corporate interest and profits supersede all other priorities and the matter of oppressing the masses really became a competitive big business.

The results of decades of neo-liberal administrations have been presented as a glorious triumph with companies able to drastically reduce labour and production costs and free to massively prosper from the mass privatisation of local infrastructures and fiscal benefits. Economic advisers said that flooding of the Third World with capital from high concentrations of investment would, through a 'trickling down' effect, generate employment and increase wealth on a local level, effectively presenting the multinational corporations as the emancipators of the poor.

This subsequently allowed for an enormous increase in the transfer of

wealth from Latin America to the West, which resulted in severely stunting the continent's economic growth. The programmes of privatisation have led to large increases in unemployment and poverty, whilst the deregulation of the banks has permitted billions of dollars to be freely invested abroad. This has led to local producers having to face high interest rates and further debt as they struggle to compete with unfavourable IMF and World Bank imposed export conditions.

However, as the true effects of neo-liberalism began to be felt by the masses, discontent began to arise. Increasingly exploited, victimised and oppressed, the Latin people have long organised and fought the system. From the treacherous murders of Zapata or Sandino (Mexican and Nicaraguan freedom fighters of early last century) to the Gestapo-like secret police of the 70s and 80s the system has repeatedly cut them down in a brutal and callous fashion, fearful as it is of the threat posed by an organisation of the masses.

Yet seeds of resistance flourish endlessly as the misery of the Latin people increases. Faced with the prospect of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, a neo-colonial plan for the economic domination of everything from Tijuana to Tierra del Fuego, protest movements have been springing up all over the continent. Youth have been at the forefront manifesting their discontent at the programmes of privatisation, trade tariffs, sweatshops, environmental pillaging and repression that the FTAA is bringing even before its introduction in 2005.

Many companies that operate in Latin America already carry out illegal operations such as the sponsoring of right wing paramilitary death squads, the employment of child labour, the disregard of labour legislation and the violation of environment laws. Many of these actions are illegal - yet after the introduction of FTAA, they will be legitimised since the agreement stipulates that sovereign national laws do not apply to foreign investors.

In advancing the 'War on Terror', the US has established Plan Colombia, a \$7.5 bn initiative that effectively means the militarisation of the region. Supposedly in a drive to combat drug smuggling, military bases have been set up in Honduras, Ecuador, Brazil and Chile and are used for counter-insurgency training of both American and local forces. To add insult to injury the funding for this will be a bill mainly footed by the local population. The introduction of VAT, higher taxes and programmes of mass privatisation will generate some 60% of the capital needed to establish the US's foothold even more firmly in the region.

And so we see local state and police forces heavily armed and with a mandate to 'keep the peace' through pro-active, pre-emptive operations that have led to thousands of deaths, cases of torture, disappearances, displacement and threats. In Colombia, the government now



actively funds right-wing paramilitaries to police areas identified as 'nests of insurgency'. In return the paramilitaries are granted immunity and allowed to reap the benefits of controlling the drug smuggling trade routes.

In Bolivia, the recent popular uprisings were greeted as an assault on democracy, regardless of the fact that President Sanchez de Losada was fraudulently elected in a rigged ballot orchestrated by the US who feared that victory by Movimiento Al Socialismo party (MAS) would endanger US corporate interests in Bolivia. The uprisings were met with tremendous force leaving over 60 dead and hundreds injured.

In the near future this sort of repression will increase as discontent rises and the masses organise. However, as history has shown the guerrilla tactics of the 20th century have proved ineffective and only succeeded in stagnation of the movement and its undoubted potential. Latin America lies at a crucial juncture in its history. It is ripe for revolt but lacks the leadership, organisation and structure to do so. The Brazilian PT (Workers; Party), the populism of Chavez (Venezuelan president almost pushed from office by the CIA) and the guerrillas in Colombia have proved ineffective in emancipating the poor. Only through the formation of a truly international workers party will the movement truly succeed in overcoming the global threat that Capitalism poses. Forward to the Fifth International!

by paolo in peckham



waging war



on WAR

STATEMENT from WORLD REVOLUTION International Coordination Committee

On the 15th of February 2003 we saw the emergence of a movement rising against the imperialist war on Iraq. Between 20-30 million went out to protest in more than 600 cities around the world. It was a major historical event - the biggest co-ordinated protest on an international level that has ever been seen.

On March 20th, when the bombs began to fall on Baghdad, hundreds of thousands returned to the streets to protest. One year on, Iraq is still being occupied by imperialist armies and every day Iraqis are dying as a result. This is because the movement did not succeed in stopping the war. As Bush and Blair gave orders to their armies to begin the slaughter of the Iraqi people, the reformist leaders in the anti-war movement didn't dare to call for strikes and direct action, which could have brought the war to a halt.

The resistance did not die. In Iraq, the movement against the occupation has taken the form of a broad popular movement, uniting people from Shi'a and Sunni communities. Even resistance against the occupiers in the Kurdish group in the north has been reported recently. Every day there are more than 40 actions of resistance against the military forces of the American and British armies.

It is the responsibility of the anti-war and anti-capitalist movement to support this resistance. It is a resistance against colonial imperialism and dictatorship and a victory for the resistance would be a victory for all oppressed and struggling people all over the world.

✱ **Victory to the resistance - defeat the imperialist occupiers!**
✱ **International resistance against the occupation - build for strikes against the occupation in schools, universities and workplaces.**

The 'War On Terror' under which the occupation is being carried out is at the same time a war against the social gains and democratic rights won by workers' struggles in the west. While sending troops to support the occupation, the imperialist governments in the EU and US are making working people and the poor pay for the occupation through forcing through privatisation on public services and increasing tax cuts for the rich.

On the 2nd and 3rd of April, the European Trade Union federation and the social forums movement calls for protests against privatisations and social cuts. Take action and protests against the bosses and their capitalist project!

✱ **Unite the anti-war movement with the workers' struggle**
✱ **Everybody out on the 2nd and 3rd of April**

why we took sides

On March 20th this year - when thousands will once again take to the streets opposing Blair the warmonger, the imperialist and the liar - it will be one year since the full might of American and British imperialism descended on the Iraqi nation. Then REVOLUTION took a controversial position: against the British state and for the victory of Iraq. One year on, were we right to say victory to Iraq?

When millions marched against the war in Iraq one slogan became more prominent than any other "no war for oil". The millions of protesters realised one very profound fact that this war was not being fought in the interests of freedom and democracy - it was being fought in the interests of big business. The Americans and British wanted to seize control of Iraq's oil and gain political and strategic dominance over the entire Middle East.

When this imperialist crusade kicked off we were told to "support our boys". Don't oppose the war at all just hope that "we" get a quick and easy victory. There was a witchhunt in the media against the anti-war movement. In short, we were told we had to be patriotic and support "our" country.

REVOLUTION said loud and clear "patriotism is a gigantic fraud". It rests on the lie: that all British people have the same interests and that those interests are different from those of the Iraqi people. In fact the opposite is true - the interests of working class people and youth in Britain are the opposite of the fat cat billionaires that run the country behind the farce of liberal democracy. A Royal Mail postal worker has more in common with an Iraqi factory worker than the rich and their puppets, Bush and Blair.

That's why it was the right-wing media, owned and controlled by billionaires, that were the most aggressive backers of the war even when millions marched to stop it. And that's why it is the working class people and organisations that were most anti-war like trade unions, local labour parties, school and college students.

When millions marched against war they realised that the aims of the warmongers - theft and domination were unjust. Opposing them means opposing them even when they enter the battle zone because a victory for the ruling class thieves and exploiters is a defeat not just for the Iraqis but for the British working class. Would Blair have been able to push through anti working class policies like top up fees in higher education, unfair public sector pay settlements and back door privatisation in the health service if the British and American armies had been driven out of Iraq? No, he would have been forced out of office.

The Iraqi nation was brutally invaded with thousands losing their lives.
continued on page 6...

how we could have stopped the war

The Stop the War Coalition (STWC) helped to organise one of the most important political events of our generation - Feb 15th. In the UK over 2 million people marched. Across the world between 20 and 30 million demonstrated. When war eventually broke out (Day X), huge protests rocked our cities; school students marched out of their class rooms, some protesting for the first time in their lives; fights broke out on the streets with the police; and roads were blocked, traffic brought to a standstill. As the slaughter began in Iraq, the movement picked up pace in the UK. As Bomber Blair sweated it out in his war cabinet in London, outside on the streets of Britain reverberated with the rhythms of protest.

The successes of the movement are many. The STWC brought together the student movement, trade unions, NGOs, the anti-capitalist movement and, most of all, ordinary workers. But despite the breadth and diversity of the movement, it was strong with political militancy. Thousands said this was about profit and imperialism, "no blood for oil" became the slogan that brought together a mass movement.

So with all those people on all those demonstrations, why did we not stop the war? The answer is clear. As socialists we know that only the power of the working class can really challenge, and stop the government's plans. In Motherwell, Scotland, train drivers and signal operators refused to move ammunition trains which were bound for Iraq and their trade union supported them. But this kind of militant working class action was lacking from the rest of the anti-war movement.

Although young people at the forefront and made up the militant vanguard of the movement, but alone we could not stop it. We needed the organised working class to take action.

We needed a general strike

REVO activists in local meetings and at national mobilisations argued for the action necessary to stop the war. We argued for a global shutdown – an international general strike against war. This was firstly as a call to action on a rank and file level by workers and secondly as a demand of the trade union bureaucracy to call for the action themselves and mobilise workers around the call. Most of the major trade unions were signed up to the STWC. The TUC issued a statement on the war that was long on anti-war rhetoric but short - very short - on action.

We demanded that they mobilise their memberships to shut down Britain in the event of war.

Many of the activists in the STWC argued against us and said that those demands



cont from
page 5

A foreign army poured over the borders bent on dominating and exploiting the country's resources. As has been proven - unlike the United States - they did not have a huge arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. The Iraqi's had a right to defend themselves from this imperialist attack; we defended that right and more than that wanted them to win.

A nice kind of patriotism?

Does this mean we say that Iraqi patriotism is good and British patriotism is bad? No, it means we have an understanding of an entire economic system that creates war, poverty, exploitation, racism and environmental catastrophe: capitalism is the problem.

The British, American and

European governments work in the interests of the most powerful and exploitative capitalists on the planet. They are imperialists that carve up the world in order to exploit its resources and reap the maximum possible profit.

On the other hand Iraq is a semi-colonial state that is subordinate to the whims and interests of the imperialists. In the 1980s Saddam Hussein was the 'friendly' dictator for American imperialism, so they provided him with arms and money to wage war against enemy no 1 - the Islamic clerical dictatorship in Iran. In that war, with the support of America who blocked UN criticism of him, Saddam did use chemical nerve gas leaving thousands of people dead.

Other activists and groups in the anti-war movement, claimed that we supported Saddam Hussein by saying victory to Iraq. This is not true. On the contrary we supported the resistance of the Iraqi working class to the imperialist invasion. We called on them to establish their own organs of democracy and to take mass action against the invasion and the Saddam dictatorship. We said there could be no free democracy under an imperialist occupation. While the Iraqi's defended Iraq, we took sides against the British state and argued for a general strike to stop the war and topple Blair.

Iraq under occupation, viva the resistance!

were too far ahead of the movement and people were not ready to strike. But these arguments miss the point - the reason why we demand strike action is not because we think it is a possibility but because it is a necessity! Only strike action could have paralysed the economy and the war machine to the point where the government would have been forced to withdraw troops from Iraq. This would have left Bush isolated and unable to carry out an effective assault on Basra in the south of the country, a city that was left to the 'Brits' to 'deal with'.

The trade union leaders would have also said that they cannot call for a general strike because that is illegal under British law. Well, that argument looks pretty hollow in the light of the illegal war that the British government waged in Iraq! If the British government can invade a country illegally and hold it under occupation in order to exploit its economy and control its people then it is the duty of every worker in this country to stand in solidarity with the Iraqis, against our government!

What can we learn for next time?

Although big at first, the student strikes did not gain the momentum necessary to pull out large sections of the working class and after 3 or 4 days the majority of students were back in their schools, colleges and universities. Without strike action Blair and Bush were on course for victory. Meanwhile, the anti-war movement was witchhunted on the television - we were told to "support our boys" and derided as traitors.

What we were lacking was a militant political leadership of the movement. A leadership that was willing to take sides against the British state and mobilise the working class for action

For a new workers party, revolutionary youth movement and Fifth International

Young people were the vanguard of the movement but they lacked their own mass organisation that could link up the struggles of young workers school and college students who wanted to take action against the war. We need an organisation that can

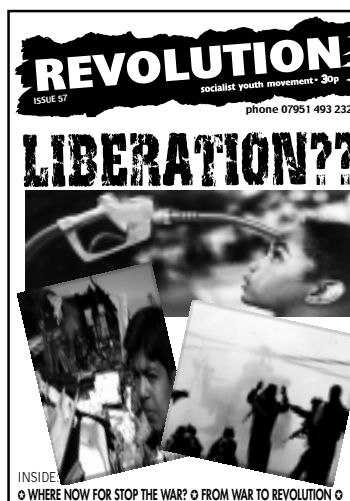
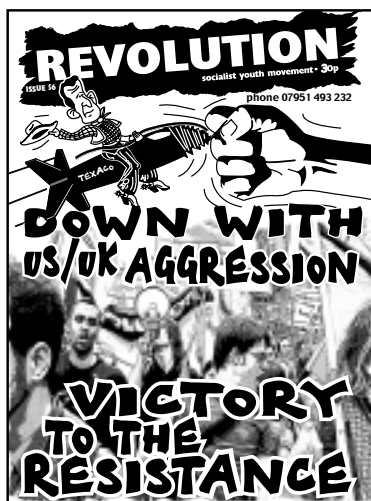
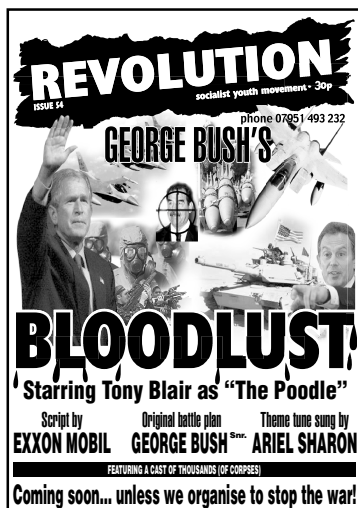
link these struggles up internationally too, that's why REVOLUTION has being taken steps to forming a new revolutionary youth international to unite all the young people of the anti-war and anti-capitalist movements.

We needed strike action from day one. But we also need a new organisation of the working class that can fight for the militant action necessary. We need to split the Labour Party and form new mass working class party based on the trade union movement that can give the militant anti-war workers, who are also fighting social cuts and privatisation, a new voice for their political struggles. To win such a prize we will have to argue for it at every level of the trade union movement. Such a party could stand up to the lies, slander and witch hunt of the British state and argue for the actions necessary to stop the war.

Internationally we must take steps towards a new international organisation of the working class. Historically there have been four such internationals, each have taken the struggles of the workers against war, imperialism and capitalism forward, but each has degenerated and collapsed. Now is the time to raise the call for the Fifth International. A mass body that can unite all the struggles of the international working class - the struggles against war, poverty, imperialism and racism - and take the steps necessary to win.

In this way we can stop the next step in the endless "war on terror". But every anti war activist must remember that Blair and Bush will stop at nothing to win. They will massacre people of all ages, indiscriminately bomb their cities, imprison people without trial and break every rule they can in order to further their capitalist agenda. We must be prepared to organise mass militant action to not only stop the war but also bring the whole system down. Only the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a socialist society can stop war and economic crisis like this happening again and that is why we must fight for our revolutionary politics within the movement, try and win the mass support and then smash capitalism. Nothing less will do.

by simon in sheffield



The imperialists have rolled in but far from installing a free, peaceful and democratic regime, the marital law of the US/UK armies rules on the streets of Iraq. Protesters demanding basic social and human rights like the right to work, the right to clean water and most of all the right to democracy have been shot at and killed. But the Iraqis are not taking this lying down. They are fighting back against the brutal imperialist occupation.

REVOLUTION was right to say victory to Iraq and we are right today to support the Iraqi resistance. That resistance is disparate and fragmented. At the forefront of it are mainly nationalist forces and also Islamist forces. These are reactionary doctrines that are anti-working class. We want the socialist and

working class forces in Iraq to come to the forefront of the resistance against the imperialist occupation. If they do, they can assume the leadership of the entire Iraqi nation and, on the backs of driving the imperialists out, they can establish a socialist Iraq that would be a beacon of hope to the international working class, poor and oppressed.

But, even if the Iraqi working class do not come to the head of the struggle Revolution supports all forces fighting imperialism and stand for their victory. Why? Because a defeat for imperialism is a victory for the international working class. When the Stalinist Vietcong (who murdered thousands of revolutionary socialists) drove US imperialism out of South East Asia in 1975 the cause

of working class struggles and the struggles of the oppressed and poor in the semi-colonial world were given a huge boost.

Today America's permanent war on the poor, the so-called "war on terror" must be dealt a similar blow. The struggles of the international anti-capitalist movement and international working class against the neo liberal agenda must support all struggles against the imperialist monster. In doing so we must unite the workers and poor of the world in a struggle against the entire system, its overthrow and the establishment of a classless, socialist world.

by lukey c in south london

the apartheid wall

At the end of February, the International Court of Justice in The Hague began proceedings on the legality of the "Separation Wall" being built by Israel in the West Bank. Understanding that they had no chance of winning any legal argument, Ariel Sharon's government decided to boycott the court and organise a street event, parading a bombed-out bus brought over from Israel alongside the family members of victims of Palestinian suicide bombings. Their intended message was clearly that the Palestinians are terrorists, that the Wall is needed to save lives, and that this is more important than the effect that this "temporary security measure" will have on the quality of life of the Palestinians. Naturally, the occupation was not mentioned at all.



In fact, the wall is neither temporary nor a security measure. Its barely concealed objective is a massive land grab with the expulsion of Palestinians from their homes and lands. Nor does it separate the Israeli and Palestinian populations from each other - the argument used in its favour by its Israeli advocates - in fact, its main effect so far seems to be to separate Palestinians from each other and from their lands and other resources, cutting up the West Bank into a dozen or so isolated ghettos. Ultimately, the aim is to make Palestinian life in the West Bank so intolerable that thousands of Palestinians will leave "voluntarily", never to return.

When completed, the Wall will effectively annex some 50% of the West Bank to Israel, including 98% of the illegal settlers. The Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including almost 1.5 million refugees, will be squeezed into a mere 12% of their historic homeland. About 16% of Palestinians in the West Bank will be trapped between the Wall and the 1967 border with Israel, cut off from the outside world and under massive pressure to leave. This will include 200,000 residents of East Jerusalem, who will be isolated from the rest of the West Bank. The Wall is therefore a threat both to the viability of any future Palestinian state, and to Palestinian life in the Occupied Territories at present.

Clearly, what is needed is a campaign of mass mobilisations to prevent the Wall from being built. Indeed, Palestinian, Israeli and international activists have already taken part in protests against the Wall. In December, Israeli troops used teargas and rubber bullets against protesters near the village of Budrus, outside Ramallah, arresting about ten people including Swedish MP Gustav Fridolin. There have also been spontaneous protests by residents of villages close to the planned route of the Wall, which, if organised, could be the beginnings of a mass resistance that has been largely absent from the current Intifada.

Unfortunately, this is not the attitude of the Palestinian leadership, who have instead tried to use the effects of the Wall to put diplomatic pressure on the United States to revive the stalled "Road Map For Peace". The legalistic show at The Hague was part of this game - even if the court rules against the Wall, it cannot do anything to stop Israel building it. The judgement can, however, be used as a bargaining chip with the Bush administration to have a quiet word with the political Israeli establishment.

The same Bush administration that has invaded Iraq, bombed Afghanistan and supported Israel through three years of repression cannot be relied upon now to defend Palestinian rights. Instead, the Palestinians should turn to their real allies - the workers and anti-capitalist movement both in the West and the Arab world. Only they have the strength, numbers and motivation to assist the Palestinians in liberating their country.

by marcus in kennington



Victory to the Palestinian Resistance!

how to fight fascism

The deaths, in February, of 29 Chinese Cockle Pickers brought home to many the harsh reality of life for 'illegal' immigrant labourers in this country. Running the gauntlet of racist locals and earning as little as a £1 a day they eventually paid the ultimate price, drowned by the incoming tidal waters of Morecambe Bay.

Much of the press attention has focussed on the role played by the ruthless gang masters who hire and exploit the desperation of thousands of immigrants in this country. But this disguises the fact that whole sections of British society - like the construction industry and NHS for example - are dependent on the labour of low paid migrant workers.

It is this dependency that led Britain to originally state that it was willing to allow immigrants from the 10 EU accession states of Eastern Europe to work in Britain and qualify for benefits after an initial three month period of residency. However the government has backtracked in the face of a vicious scare mongering campaign in the press and now say workers will be unable to claim job seekers allowance, housing benefit or use the NHS for their first year in the UK.

The racist press campaign led by papers such as The Sun, Daily Express and Daily Mail has warned of 10,000's potentially flooding into the UK each year "swamping our hospital wards" and living it up on benefits. One particular group targeted by the hate campaign has been the Roma Gypsy community who make up a significant minority in several of the countries that will enter the EU on May 1st. We are told they will be "massing at the borders" bringing with them diseases like Aids and TB. But the truth is that despite the discrimination they face and the desperate poverty many live in (see separate article on Roma in Slovakia) they are unlikely to want to uproot and move to Britain.

The government's original estimation of 5,000 to 13,000 a year coming into the UK in total seems to be realistic.

Of course by pandering to the right wing press and talking tough, whether on new immigrants or refugees, the government hopes to stop people who have a genuine gripe over poor living standards and worsening services from looking to the Tories, or even the hardcore racists of the BNP. But paradoxically the government have only served to legitimise the racist arguments and created the environment in which fascism is once again able to rear its ugly head.

This is not simply a bad tactical choice by the government but a sign of its own inherent racism. Taking on the racist arguments and standing up for the rights of minorities would mean having to explain failing

schools, crumbling hospitals and the widening gap between the haves and the have nots without resorting to using scapegoats and that would mean explaining the inadequacy of the system. The inadequacy of Capitalism!

The threat posed by a resurgent Far Right is a very real one. We have already seen the election of 17 BNP councillors, mainly in the North and the fascists are confidently predicting a significant increase in this number in June's local elections. In London they will be standing a Mayoral candidate and hoping to gain the 5% that is required to give them a seat on the Greater London Authority under the system of proportional representation.

It is imperative that we organise to stop the fascist threat in its tracks. This will mean providing a radical political alternative, a new workers party is urgently needed to connect with the millions who have been let down by New Labour, and will be looking for an alternative.

But the fascists want to do more than win seats in elections. Fascism is also about controlling the streets. Don't be fooled by the snappy suits and nice haircuts of the likes of BNP leader Nick Griffin, the BNP is stuffed full of racist thugs who have a track record of terrorising immigrant communities. Wherever they have gone electioneering racism has increased as a result. We must stop the fascists from organising in our communities and if that means physically confronting them, then so be it.

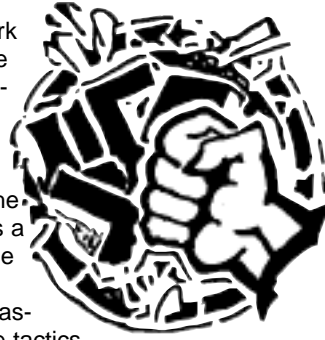
Some people will say that even fascists should have rights in a democratic system. But the fascists aim to deny that very same right to millions. Immigrant communities have the right to live without intimidation and the threat of violence. That is why Revolution believes in 'No Platform' - that it is legitimate and necessary to prevent the fascists from peddling their race hate filth - by any means necessary.

The setting up of the broad anti fascist front 'Unite' should be welcomed as a positive step forward for opponents of the BNP. In drawing in the trade unions it has the potential to mobilise millions alongside anti-racist activists. But by attempting to unite all forces opposed to the fascists, even including Tories like Sir Teddy Taylor it will have to limit itself to appeals to "Don't Vote Nazi", totally inadequate when people are disillusioned by New Labour and full of media fuelled resentment against refugees and immigrants.

What's more in order to keep the support of "respectable politicians, union leaders and clerics" it will shy away from advocating the self defence of our communities or organising it for our demonstrations. It will not implement No Platform, instead appealing to state bans and the police to protect us

from the fascist threat.

Revolution will work together with Unite activists whilst putting the case for the militant tactics which will be necessary to defeat the fascist threat. If it's a choice between the support of "respectable anti-fascists" and effective tactics we will choose the latter.



by kuldip in clapham

R O A R

At it's 2004 Conference revolution launched REVOLUTION ORGANISING AGAINST RACISM (ROAR) with the aim of linking up the fight against all forms of racism. Racism is a product of capitalism, which uses it to justify slavery and war, to legitimise military occupations and colonialism. Capitalism seeks to divide the working class, turning us against each other when we should be fighting the system.

- ✚ We will fight State racism. This means fighting back against the racist police and laws that criminalise black communities. We will fight against the anti terrorism laws which target Muslim communities and trample on civil liberties.
- ✚ We will campaign against the media lies about asylum seekers. While the papers of the press barons preach about welfare scrounging asylum seekers their owners live in tax exile abroad.
- ✚ We will mobilise to take direct action against the racist rags, the Bush Blair Corporation and all the racist media institutions.
- ✚ We will fight against all immigration controls and for the freedom of movement of all people. If money can cross borders so can people!
- ✚ We will organise against the fascist threat, where possible physically driving them off the streets. We say No Platform for their hate and terrorist campaign.
- ✚ We will continue the fight for the freedom of Mario Bango! Our Slovakian Comrade has been unjustly sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for the 'crime' of defending his brother from a Fascist skinhead thug. We reaffirm our commitment to the slogan 'self defence is no offence!'

If you would like to be involved in any of ROAR's activities over the coming months then contact us. We will be organising street level activity all over the country and large rallies to get people involved. Black and white unite and fight! One solution - revolution!

Music

Fermin Muguruza

by joy in london

I went to see Fermin Muguruza, Basque musician and his band, who played the Garage in London. It was a great night! The band had about 10 members with 3 wicked female vocalists and a fab horn section. The music is a sort of reggae/ska, with some dance music on the latest release – In-komunikazioa/ Komunikazioa. Sort of like a Basque Asian Dub... sort of. What they have most in common is that they are both very political.

I was invited to the gig by a Basque friend, but I had first heard of Fermin when I was in Madrid recently. A friend involved with the social forum movement in Madrid talked about how they had tried to open up the discussion on the Basque question (taboo subject in Spain) by attempting to hold a cultural event where they invited Fermin to play. But the Madrid local government stepped in to censor his gigs and leaned on the venue owners to pull out – all his shows were cancelled as a result of pressure from the so-called 'Victims of Terrorism' Association.

This is just one example illustrating the repression that the Basque people face from the Spanish state – and this repression is increasing. The Spanish state is whipping up an atmosphere of fear against the Basque people. The latest offensive against the ETA (Euskadi Ta Askatasuna) and Basque nationalist groups started in mid-2002, gathering pace undoubtedly because the Spanish prime minister, Jose Maria Aznar, saw the opportunity to strike a serious blow following 9/11. In May/June 2003, the US and EU declared Batasuna (the political wing) as a terrorist organisation.

The Partido Popular government and Aznar curtailed even further the democratic and national rights of the Basque population. Other measures included the prevention of candidates from standing in elections, closing of both press and internet sites, the seizing of assets and freezing of bank accounts, confiscation of property and offices of Basque organisations, and the use of State of Exception laws to prevent 'congregation'. When the EU summits were held in Barcelona and Sevilla, coachloads of Basques were turned back – stopped from travelling within Spain!

The increased level of repression the Basque country is now witnessing demonstrates the simple fact – the Basque nation is oppressed. But do the Basque people want independence? Although it is clear that a majority of the population are not actively involved in or support the separatist movements, this cannot be seen simply that they do not wish to separate and certainly not that they do not support the right to self-determination. But the opportunity to decide what they want is denied them: the Aznar government was in the process of making any attempts to hold a referendum on the question of self-determination illegal. In 2002, Aznar stated "There is not going to be any room for breaking away. No-one is going to impose an illegal regime." Except you Aznar... Opinion polls indicate a clear majority are in favour of the right to self-determination. But the big



question is what will the new government made up of the PSOE (socialist party) do? We need to put pressure on the government to hold a referendum now and release all political prisoners.

As communists we should not advocate the fight for independence of the Basque country – because it divides the working class struggle in the Basque country and Spain – but we should fight for the democratic and national questions to be taken up by them. This means struggling against all manifestations of repression and restrictions on democratic rights. This also means that the workers and social movements in Spain (and France) must fight for the rights of the populations of the Basque provinces to freely decide whether or not they wish to separate.

REVOLUTION does not support the guerilla style tactics of ETA, whose bombing campaigns have killed many innocent people. We would argue that individual acts of terror are not the way forward for the struggle, but that we must build a mass movement in the Basque country and link up with the Spanish masses to take on the Spanish state.

The Basque struggle can be linked directly to the attacks on civil liberties taking place in Spain, and across Europe and the world. That is where Revolution has an important role to play: linking these struggles and the struggles of oppressed peoples around the world. The demonisation of the Basque, the Palestinians, the anti-capitalist movement is part and parcel of the capitalist state's agenda to criminalise dissent.

We are facing an international enemy – the capitalist class – and we must organise internationally in order to defeat them. That is why our call for a revolutionary youth international has a resonance worldwide. We need to unite our struggles and organise cross border actions to free ourselves from oppression and misery.

SEGI, the youth group connected with Batasuna (not banned...yet) is hosting an international conference of youth groups and a festival called Topagune in April. Revolution will be there to discuss with the Basque youth the way forward for their struggle and the struggle worldwide.



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LOCAL SOCIAL FORUMS - the way forward for the movement

The Anti-War Movement has meant that there is now a whole section of local activists who have been involved in building for anti-war demonstrations and organising local events. Despite the failure of the anti-war movement to stop the war, there still exists a broad layer of local activists who are still doing consistent political work.

The Anti-War Movement also put into people's consciousness the idea that something is behind all the problems we have all seen. Many people said that the war on Iraq was about oil (an anti-capitalist argument), and more still linked the war on Iraq with the war that is being waged against the Palestinians. The growth of the far-right, the selling off of public services and the introduction of top-up fees - could these all be tied together in some way? Hell yes! CAPITALISM.

These grassroots activists and the linking up of the issues that affect us has led to social forums springing up across the country. These forums provide a place where people can discuss these issues and ideas openly, and also provide the opportunity for something very powerful - action!

By getting people together to exercise democracy outside of a parliamentary structure, social forums could lead to democratic and effective campaigns on local issues that also recognise the bigger picture. They are the beginning of self-organisation of society where it is the majority that is making the decisions that affect our lives, not the rich minority.

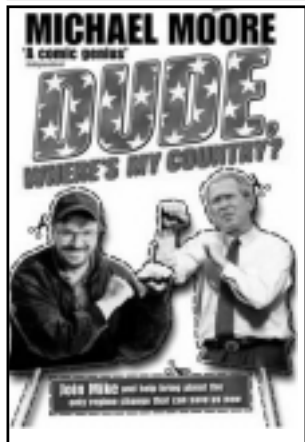
But in order for this potential to be reached a number of things must happen:

- 1) Social Forums must have support from local trade unions in order to be reflective of and have influence in local workplaces and communities. The problems that we face can only be solved by the organised working class fighting for their interests against the interests of the profit hungry bosses.
- 2) Social Forums must not become talking shops. They must make decisions and carry out actions if they are ever to have wider influence than just experienced activists. A reliance on consensus (in)decision making is pointless and undemocratic. Let's not waste our time talking about how we should all get along. Let's do something!
- 3) Social Forums must co ordinate with each other and build national and international links.

There's only a certain amount that can be achieved on a purely local level, and although this is valuable, what must ultimately happen is for struggles to be made regional, national and international. We must fight for active and democratic regional, national and international social forums.

The very fact that local Social Forums exist in the first place shows how much of an opportunity we have to politicise people and to win them to revolutionary socialist politics and to bring the workers' movement forward. Let's not waste this opportunity. Social forums do exist. We need to support and extend them. And we will bring the fight against capitalism to the forefront of their agenda.

by josh in halifax



Michael Moore's newest book 'Dude, Where's My Country?' is a biting critique of Bush's America since '9/11'. The invasion of Iraq was a crime and a lie, and the so-called War on Terror a fatal distraction from the real class enemy at home.

Moore's upbringing are not the main thrust of his work. But they help to ruin his main theme of Anti-Bush/War on Terror polemic. And this is even more disappointing because of his alternative: namely a Democrat as president.

Firstly he argues for Oprah Winfrey for President. Then he throws his weight behind the "Good General" Wesley Clark - who has since dropped out of the race to become the Democrat candidate in the November elections.

His main reasoning for backing Oprah is because she showed the footage of Rumsfeld hugging Saddam when he was doing arms deals with him in the 1980's live on her show during the war on Iraq: "There was an audible gasp in her studio audience." We're much more familiar with this footage and its implications over here. Moore's book gives us a good idea of just how bad things are in the States right now.

He gives us a picture of the press hounding the French during the War. The vicious Patriot Act and its effects on America is well documented, and Moore gives us a frightening summary of examples pointing to a creeping fascist state: in one case a cop entered a school in Vermont to photograph an art project which had an anti-Bush piece... The teacher was then removed from teaching his 'current affairs' class.

Moore also has a good go at pinning the Bin Laden and the Bush dynasties together. Indeed, he is funniest when he gets angry about class: he asks why they never had the headline "3,000 killed by Multi-Millionaire." Why don't they see Osama Bin Laden as "a

rich Fuck who kills people."

Good point. And then Moore follows this with a vague passage where he outlines his dream for America: "We can one day live in a country where the people once again pick the president, a country where the wealthy learn that they have to pay for their actions."

"A free country, a safe country, a peaceful country that genuinely shares its riches with the less fortunate around the world, a country that believes in everyone getting a fair shake and where fear is seen as the only thing we truly need to fear."

Not much more than a bit of a fluffy populist/liberal "founding fathers" ideal of America then.

Moore offers nothing to the anti-capitalist movement - which deserves better than this. He has fallen into the electoral trap of looking to pick a 'lesser of two evils'. In his last book, Stupid White Men, he rejected this flawed tactic: he defended the need to put forward an alternative to "Tweedle-Dum and Tweedle-Dummer", as he called Al Gore and Bush.

You think we've got problems in the UK? If you find the latest electoral moves by the left over here frustrating, then just be thankful you don't live in the States.

There is a worldwide crisis in the left. Revolution readers should to take the ideas of this book and throw them into the dustbin of history where they belong.

by maxamillion in clapham

But Michael Moore is a product of the American 'left'. His conclusions on what needs to happen to stop Bush and his cronies are at best green-radical, and at worst, liberal populism. If you had any hope for Moore's potential for revolutionary thought, then when you read his newest book, you'll be reeling from the shock.

Try these little gems for size: "People who commit violent crimes should be locked up."

Mumia Abu-Jamal "did indeed kill that cop."

"It's a really bad idea to have sex before you're eighteen"

"Drugs are bad. They fuck you up, slow you down and ruin your daily existence"

And... (you'll love this one): "Your children do not have a right to privacy and you better pay attention to what they're up to."

These pieces of bizarre insights into



Slovak Roma fight back

by pavel in prague

In February, thousands of Roma took to the streets of Slovakia to fight back against 'improvements' the government is trying to force through. These include cutting the already meagre social benefits by 50%. Improvements my ass!

These 'improvements' have brought 100,000's to the edge of hunger and despair. In Slovakia, live an estimated 400,000 Roma. 90% of them are unemployed with little or no chance of getting work, especially in Eastern Slovakia. 100,000's of long term unemployed and their families are totally depend on social benefits.

In 1996, the World Bank reported that 6.3% households and 8.6% individuals live under the poverty line in Slovakia (4.3 USD per person and day).

The situation of the Roma in Slovakia is even worse than of other poor. Widespread racism gives no chance to Roma to get a job. Moreover over recent years the mafia have developed that lends money to poor Roma on extraordinary interest rates. Many Roma that desperately need money to feed their children fell victim to this mafia.

In Trhoviste young Roma says loudly: "There will be a war. We have guns. We have no other choice, our children cry from hunger. We don't want benefits, we want jobs." He says he is a trained car mechanic but he cannot get a job because he is Roma.

In the Slovak town of Levoca 80 Roma attacked a supermarket and took food on 18th February. This event was a first in a series of "shopping without money" in a number of towns in Central and Eastern Slovakia. Similar events were reported in Hucin, Sivenice, Caklov, Trebisov, Trhovice, Kamenany and other towns. In Trebisov about 400 Roma youth clashed with riot police who came to arrest "thieves" from previous riots. 126 people were arrested, 55 were detained.

Roma need to get organised on a rank and file level. Their treacherous leaders called off the day of protests on 25th of February. The only demand they raised is to set a quota of Roma for employers. The Roma need to get a rid of their leaders who are not those who starve. In fact they often belong to a privileged small minority of Roma intellectuals whose main role is to give an anti-racist face to the racist Slovak state.

Roma need mass meetings to decide about actions to take and elect committees of struggle against hunger. They also need self-defence groups against police and army violence under the discipline of these democratically elected committees.

As the ruling class plays the race card, the Roma also need to involve poor and workers of other nationalities of Slovakia. Already Czech TV reported that in some place "white" Slovak poor joined the protests.



MARIO BANGO POLITICAL PRISONER

Mario Bango has been imprisoned in Bratislava since March 2001 for defending himself against a neo-Nazi attack. The 20 year old anti-fascist is a Roma. In November 2003, he was condemned to 12 years for 'attempted murder.'

What happened during the incident?

Three years ago, my brother was attacked by the well-known Bratislavan skinhead Branislav Slamka. When I went to help him, I got into an argument with Slamka. The neo-Nazi fell down and hit his head on the ground. Immediately I contacted the police and the emergency service. When the police arrived, I was arrested on the spot. Some weeks later Slamka died due to a doctor's negligence: the physician had seen a blood clot in his brain but did nothing about it. I was remanded in prison until my trial.

How did your trial run?

The judgement is clearly politically motivated. The judge did not make any secret of his dislike of me because I am Roma; and there was also the fact that Robert Fico, who is chairmen of the racist and right-populist party SMER, represented Slamka's family and the prosecution. The judgement - twelve years imprisonment - is absurd. I have defended my brother; the action I took was in self-defence.

How are the prison conditions?

It is everything but easy. The first prison attendant, who is a sympathiser of the neo-Nazis, threatened to make my life hell. That changed only with the pressure of the international solidarity campaign. Since then I am left in peace. The fact that I am allowed only a one-hour visit in a month and only one package in three months is particularly hard.

Do you gain any information about solidarity outside?

By letters, the attorney and a few visitors mean that I am halfway up to date. The support by hundreds of organisations worldwide motivates me a lot. The fact that the Slovakian President Rudolf Shoemaker has had to answer protest letters shows the strength of international pressure. In Slovakia, however, the situation is another. In the media, a frenzy of lies were printed about me and my brother: We were thieves, Slamka the "upstanding citizen". Thus the neo-Nazi died because we were trying to rob him. That is the usual picture of how the Roma are portrayed in Slovakia. The racist climate can be seen clearly just by the fact that the Slovakian parliament held one minute of silence for the dead neo-Nazi upon the request of a conservative-nationalist.

Are Roma more frequent victims of attacks?

My brother had been attacked already once by neo-Nazis and was hospitalised for two weeks. Roma are practically free game. I give you two examples: 51year old Karol Sendrei was flogged to death in a police station. A young man, Milan Daniel, was killed by three skinheads with baseball bats. When questioned about the reasons for the murder, the skinheads answered: "because he was a Roma!"

12 days for Mario

On May 1st happens the accession of 10 eastern states into the EU - Slovakia being one of them. We can use this opportunity to highlight Mario's case and the lack of a fair trial in a racist country, which contravenes human rights.

Let's turn up the heat on the Slovakian government. Please plan actions in your localities!

Day 1: MAY DAY: day of national actions for Mario

Day 2: hold a meeting explaining Mario's case

Day 3: press day - send press releases to every paper

Day 4: day of poster

Day 5: send postcards of protest to the slovakian authorities

Day 6: day of graffiti

Day 7: day of petitioning for Mario's release (at work/school)

Day 8: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LOCAL ACTION

Day 9: day of fundraising for Mario

Day 10: day of stickering

Day 11: day of letter writing to mario

Day 12: hand in petitions to embassies/govt offices